



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1635 | FAX (517) 373.3300

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/vanwoerkom/

For Immediate Release
August 5, 2004

Contact: Kirk Hanna
(517) 373-1635

Recycling package passed by Senate

LANSING – A package of bills to implement recommendations of the Beverage Container and Recycling Task Force was passed by the Senate yesterday, said Sen. Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores.

The package targets ways to improve Michigan's current 20-percent recycling rate through a variety of measures. Van Woerkom sponsored two bills in the package, to create a new litter disincentive program to keep Michigan forests and fields clear of trash and refuse.

"The creation of an anti-litter bounty program will help address the problem we are having in my district with individuals dumping items in our forests and fields," said Van Woerkom. "The program will be funded through the fines assessed to individuals convicted of dumping items in inappropriate locations as well as reward the citizens who report incidents that lead to convictions."

Senate Bills 532 and 533 were introduced in response to an article printed in the Jan. 7, 2003 edition of the Muskegon Chronicle. The article relayed the sentiments of a local resident who was fed up with individuals dumping their old refrigerators and ratty couches along county roads, instead of paying to have them properly disposed in a dump.

The recycling package takes a comprehensive approach to raising Michigan's effort to recycle goods. The bills in the package would:

- allow for a new source of funding to help local recycling centers;
- stimulate market development for recyclables;
- provide for a comprehensive litter study and anti-litter marketing campaign;
- expand current adopt-a-resource programs to allow for reporting on litter; and
- establish short and long term recycling goals for the state.

The package will now be considered by the House of Representatives.

###